Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), use of seed varieties more than 10 years old are being permitted in different types of demonstrations *i.e.* Block Demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations and Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs). However, in case of seed minikits, only seed varieties of less than 10 years old are being provided to the States free of cost in order to popularize newly released varieties of oilseeds, pulses and maize amongst farmers.

Growth rate of agriculture

1033. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of agriculture envisaged for the current five year plan;

(b) the growth rate of agriculture achieved so, far, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that agricultural productivity of the country is very less than the goals set to be achieved;

(d) whether Government have reviewed the situation which if allowed to continue may affect the food security of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to increase the agricultural productivity in the country and thereby achieving the agricultural growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A target of 4 percent growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors was set during Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007).

(b) and (c) The growth rate of agriculture sector year-wise is given below:

Trend of Growth in Agriculture & Allied Sectors during First Four Years of Tenth Five Year Plan Period

Year	Growth (Percentage)
2002-03	- 6.9
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.7
2005-06	3.9

According to the estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate (at 1999-2000 prices) of the agricultural sector during the first four years of the current Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) averages to 1.9 percent against targeted annual growth rate of 4 per cent.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission has reviewed the situation in the Mid-term Appraisal released on June, 2005. It has observed that a consequence of fall in agricultural growth rate has been the stagnation of food consumption. A matter of concern is that the decline in cereals consumption is not being made up by increased consumption of other foods. To ensure food security in the country, the targeted public distribution system is in operation. The food for work programme and mid-day meals programme, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) are some of the major efforts to sustain and strengthen the food security. The major steps taken to increase agricultural productivity and enhance agricultural growth include:

* Increase in the rate of public investment in sectors like irrigation, watershed development in rainfed areas, rural road connectivity, rural electrification.
* Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vikas Kendras in each district.
* Agricultural diversification through horticulture and floriculture.
* Development/strengthening of modern agricultural markets.
* Reorientation of banks towards extending credit, especially production credit, to rural and farmers' households at concessional rate of interests.
* Revitalization of Agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.
* Contract farming to attract corporate investors.

Reduction in duty on import of wheat

1034. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: